

CHS CHECKUP



A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

Dec. 30, 2001

NEWS BRIEFS

ONE YEAR OF CHS WEB SITE

How are we celebrating the first anniversary of the CHS web <http://chs.state.ky.us/> site published in late December 2000? By improving upon it, of course!

During the past year, the site has seen a phenomenal growth in popularity increasing from 50,000 page views in January 2001 to over 190,000 in November. In order to continue this growth by making the site a true resource for Kentuckians, the site is being reorganized to shift its focus from Cabinet and agency information to health and program information.

Look for the latest version of the CHS site in early 2002!



TIP OF THE WEEK

Be on the look out for pedestrians while you are driving. Cold weather means people will be bundled up and less likely to see and hear cars.

Remember to go slow in parking lots -- they are not roads and there are many people walking to and from their cars. Don't be in a hurry, be on the lookout and go slow.

Three CHS Employees Graduate From Governor's Minority Management Trainee Program

Ron Cooper of Central State Hospital, Libby Burks-Weathers of Public Health and Tihisha Rawlins of Aging Services graduated from the Governor's Minority Management Trainee Program on Dec. 6.

Marlene Helm, Secretary, Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet was the guest speaker.

Cooper, Burks-Weathers and Rawlins were part of the third class to graduate from the Minority Management Trainee Program, which first began in 1995. The program provides practical training through classroom instruction, on-the-job experiences and special projects. Participants must complete the Certificate of Management Fundamentals offered by the Governmental Services Center, which consists of 126.50 classroom hours, attend workshops on leadership and management, and complete an applied writing project.

Participants in the two-year



Cooper



Rawlins

program are ethnic minorities of African, Asian, Hispanic or Indian descent, with one or more years of state government service; qualify for a grade 10 or higher job classification, aspire to be a manager and have demonstrated exceptional management potential.

All three Health Services graduates were very active in the program. Rawlins participated in a live interview about the program on FOX 41 in Louisville. Burks-Weathers received a service award from WAVE for her volunteer work in the Louisville community in AIDS services and education. Cooper played an integral part in a presentation during the recent Civil Rights Conference.

For more information about the program, contact your personnel administrator or visit the website at www.diversity.state.ky.us.

The mission of the Governor's Minority Management Trainee Program is to promote and manage a leadership development program that impacts all minority representation in Kentucky State Government management and leadership positions.



"...promoting and safeguarding the health and wellness of all Kentuckians."

Patricia Brodie Chosen As Central State Hospital Director

Patricia Brodie was chosen from 35 applicants to replace Paula Tamme, who retired, as Central State Hospital's Facility Director. Brodie has over 30 years of human services experience, 18 years of which has been spent with the Department for Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services. She worked at Central State from 1983-97 in various positions, first as a

charge nurse and eventually as director of quality and clinical risk management. For the past four years, Brodie has been a staff assistant in the Commissioner's office and in that capacity served as acting administrator of Glasgow State Nursing Facility and has spent time addressing problems at Oakwood.



Capitol Parking

Beginning on Wednesday, Jan. 2, all parking on the Capitol campus will return to normal operations present before construction of the new chiller plant began. The contractor has vacated the area to the east side of the Capitol Annex, thereby restoring all of the parking spaces there.



Gene Mason's Santa Claus Service Hits 15 Years

Gene Mason retired as a supervisor in the Division of Purchasing with the Human Resources Cabinet in 1995, but he has not stopped performing the role he plays so well each year for many children - Santa Claus.

It all started in 1987 when he was asked to fill in at the last minute as Santa and it hasn't stopped. Mason, also a former Marine, purchased his own Santa suit and began wishing children the merriest of Christmases. He certainly put in a full day on Dec. 21 in the Human Resources Complex, beginning at 8 a.m. and going strong until 4:30 p.m. with only a short break for lunch. He made sure that every child who wanted to speak with Santa had the opportunity.

Mason listens to all of the children's requests and gives them hugs and candy canes. A photographer takes pictures that are later developed and given to the parents. Mason pays for the film and the developing.

"He listens carefully and patiently to each child - to him it is a true labor of love," says Marcie Jeffers, one of Santa's helpers for the past 15 years. And, as far as anyone knows, Santa will be back in December 2002 to make it an even 16.



Gene Mason, who has been serving as Santa Claus since 1987, speaks to a child during his recent visit to the Human Resources Complex.



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